

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A tube partitioning method for partitioning or closing a hollow portion of a tube made of metal at a predetermined location using a partitioning plate, the method comprising:

the first process of inserting the partitioning plate in the tube, with its surfaces oriented substantially vertically with respect to a longitudinal direction of the tube, and

the second process of disposing the partitioning plate at a predetermined location in the tube and crimping the tube from its peripheral face at locations adjacent to the predetermined location where the partitioning plate is disposed so that the partitioning plate can be bitten 0.1mm or more into an inside wall of the tube from a peripheral edge face thereof to bring the tube and the partitioning plate into contact with each other,

wherein the partitioning plate has at least a first thickness portion and a second thickness portion which are symmetrical with respect to a centerline or an axis of the same when viewed from the thickness direction,

wherein the partitioning plate is formed to be tapered from the first thickness portion to the second thickness portion, and

wherein the second thickness portion of the partitioning plate is smaller in thickness than a contact portion of the tube contacting with the partitioning plate.

Claim 2 (Original): The tube partitioning method according to Claim 1, wherein a peripheral edge face of the partitioning plate has a thickness of 2.5mm or less.

Claim 3 (Original): The tube partitioning method according to Claim 1, wherein the partitioning plate is made of metal higher in hardness and smaller in stretch than that of the

tube, and the second process includes the process that the partitioning plate is fixed in the tube and also the tube is plastically deformed in a depressed manner from outside thereof so that its inside face is brought into close contact with the partitioning plate at its thicknesswise face and at its front and back sides adjacent to the thicknesswise face.

Claims 4-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): A tube made of metal and a partitioning plate which is disposed in a predetermined location in a hollow portion of the tube to partition or close the hollow portion of the tube, wherein the tube has crimped portions formed in a peripheral face of the tube at locations adjacent to the location where the partitioning plate is disposed, to fix the partitioning plate in the tube, and the partitioning plate is bitten in a wall of the tube 0.1mm or more inwardly from its periphery edge face.

Claim 8 (Original): The tube according to Claim 7, wherein the peripheral edge face of the partitioning plate has a thickness of 2.5mm or less.

Claim 9 (Original): A gas generator for an airbag having a cylindrical tube made of metal including a combustion chamber packed with gas generant which is burnt to generate high pressure gas, a filter chamber in which a filter material is fitted, a partitioning plate, made of metal which is different from that of the tube in at least one of properties of hardness, thickness, and stretch, for partitioning the tube into the combustion chamber and the filter chamber, and an igniter, fitted at an end portion of the tube, for igniting and burning the gas generant in the combustion chamber,

wherein in order to fix the partitioning plate in the tube, the tube has a crimped portion formed on its peripheral face at locations adjacent to a location where the partitioning plate is disposed and the partitioning plate is bitten 0.1mm or more into a wall of the tube from a peripheral edge face thereof.